

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 24, 2001 (BOS Mtg. 6/5/01)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Request for Allocation of Lodging Tax Revenues – Historical Committee

As in previous years, the County has received several requests/proposals for funding assistance from the FY 2002 tourism-designated lodging tax revenues. These requests are being packaged for transmittal to the Board in advance of the July 24th work session scheduled to discuss this year's allocations. However, one request just received from the Historical Committee is time-sensitive so I am transmitting it to the Board for immediate consideration. A copy of Ms. Karwac's request is attached.

As the Board is aware, the County's lodging tax rate is 5%. The 1996 legislation that gave the County the authority to raise the tax from its former 2% cap stipulates that the revenue from the additional 3% increment must be "*designated and spent for promoting tourism, travel or business that generates tourism or travel.*" The total anticipated FY 2002 tourism-designated portion of the lodging tax revenue is \$1,254,000. In accordance with the approved Yorktown Capital Improvements Program, the majority of these funds are designated for capital projects in support of the Yorktown Master Plan. However, approximately \$313,000 is programmed for support of non-capital programs such as the Relax and Ride Shuttle, Yorktown security patrols, CVB tourism promotions, and "other" contributions. The "other" contributions category is earmarked to cover grants that might be made to support exhibits, promotions and other miscellaneous programs.

As explained in Ms. Karwac's request, the Historical Committee has been offered the archaeological artifacts that were recovered from the Chischiak Watch townhouse property prior to its development. The Committee plans to incorporate these artifacts into exhibits/displays in the space it has been allocated in York Hall. However, prior to doing so, the artifacts must be properly cleaned and catalogued. The Committee has made tentative arrangements with a graduate student to do the cleaning and cataloguing, but has no means to fund the work. Hence, the Committee is seeking a total of \$6,000 to cover these services. As explained in Ms. Karwac's request, the work would be done on the grounds of the Custom House during the summer, so it would serve as an additional visitor attraction in Yorktown. The "urgency" of the request is related to being able to retain the services of the graduate student, as well as the Committee's desire to have some of the work accomplished in time to set up a display in York Hall as part of the July 4th activities in Yorktown.

The Historical Committee has received a grant of \$3,000 from the Yorktown Foundation and is requesting an equal amount from the County. I believe that the Historical Committee's initiative is worthy of support from the tourism-designated funds and that it will be a positive addition to the visitor experience in Yorktown. Sufficient funds are available and already appropriated for contributions such as this. Therefore, I recommend that the Board authorize the allocation of \$3,000 to support this request.

Carter/3337:jmc

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Attachment

- Request dated May 18, 2001 from Bonnie Karwac, Historical Committee Chair